

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend paragraph [0002] as follows:

Permanently fireproof flame guards of this type are used for ventilating installations at risk of explosion. They must be designed to be permanently fireproof in the event of the ignition of the gas or product vapor-air mixtures flowing out, that is to say to make it possible to flare off the mixtures over an unlimited time[.,,]5 period without it being possible for a flashback into the part of the installation to be protected to occur. A permanently fireproof flame guard of this type is known, for example from DE 1 041 423. In this case, the flow cross section is annular and encloses a hollow core piece, through which ambient air flows, which is taken in from the surroundings by the flame as the gas or vapor is flared off, and is used for cooling an annular grid serving as a flame guard. It has transpired that, in the case of a disk-like flame guard or in the case of an annular flame guard, the free area of the flame guard serving for the passage of the gas must not be too large, in order to avoid impermissibly high heating in the center of the flame guard, which could lead to a flashback. Therefore, disk-like flame guards can be used only up to a specific maximum diameter, and annular flame guards must not exceed a specific width of the ring. Therefore, when dimensioning the flame guard, there are difficulties in many cases, since the flame guard in each case has to be matched to the connection width of the conduit and, in the case of mixtures with a high ignition propagation capacity (explosion group IIB or IIC), in which very narrow flame extinguishing gaps are needed in the flame guard, the width or the inner and/or outer diameter of the flame guard has to be dimensioned in such a way that a desired through flow rate is achieved.

Please amend paragraph [0024] as follows:

In the exemplary embodiment illustrated in FIG. 5, the housing 1['] forms an enclosing cage for a disk-like flame guard, as can be used for smaller device dimensions. In a manner similar to that in the embodiment according to FIG. 1, two annular flame guard sections 4 are separated radially from each another by a

concentric section 5 in the form of a ring. In addition, however, a further concentric section 11 in the form of a central core is provided, around which the radially inner flame guard section is formed annularly.